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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/58/499)*]

58/136. Strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance in promoting the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism within the framework of the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, as well as Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, 1377 (2001) of 12 November 2001 and 1456 (2003) of 20 January 2003,

Recalling also its resolution 56/1 of 12 September 2001, in which it strongly condemned the heinous acts of terrorism of 11 September 2001, and its resolution 57/27 of 19 November 2002, in which it also condemned those in Bali and Moscow and urgently called for international cooperation to prevent and eradicate acts of terrorism, as well as Security Council resolution 1465 (2003) of 13 February 2003, in which the Council condemned the bombing attack in Bogotá on 7 February 2003,

Recalling further its resolution 57/173 of 18 December 2002, in which it affirmed the importance of the role of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate, including to prevent and combat terrorism, and in particular in strengthening international cooperation and providing technical assistance, upon request, which complements the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism,

Recalling its resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002, in section IV of which it approved the strengthening of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Secretariat, given that terrorism was one of the priorities of the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005,

Mindful of its resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002 on the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, which includes a plan of action against terrorism,

Supporting the ongoing efforts of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance an integrated approach to combating

terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and other related forms of criminal activity,

Stressing the need for close coordination and cooperation between States, international, regional and subregional organizations and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, as well as the Centre, in preventing and combating terrorism and criminal activities carried out for the purpose of furthering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,

Convinced of the need, as asserted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in various resolutions, in particular Council resolution 1373 (2001), to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism, and noting with deep concern the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, money-laundering and trafficking in arms, as well as illegal transfers of nuclear, chemical and biological materials,

Expressing its appreciation to the Government of Austria and the Centre for the organization of the symposium on the theme "Combating international terrorism: the contribution of the United Nations", held in Vienna on 3 and 4 June 2002, and taking note of the report of the Executive Director,[1]

Recalling that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law and that such measures are adopted in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, as appropriate,

Noting with appreciation that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 is continuing the preparation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism[2] and of a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism,[3]

1. *Encourages* the activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime within its mandates in the area of preventing terrorism by providing Member States, upon request, with technical assistance, specifically to implement the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, thereby strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism, working in close coordination with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations;

2. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Programme against Terrorism, launched by the Centre, which provides the appropriate framework for activities supporting Member States in their fight against terrorism, in particular through the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism;

3. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to and implement the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and, where appropriate, to request assistance to that end from the Centre;

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[1] See A/57/152 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2 and Add.2.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/58/37), annex II.A.

[3] Ibid., annex II.B.

4. *Notes* the preparation of a United Nations legislative guide to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, which was reviewed by an expert group hosted by the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences in Siracusa, Italy, from 3 to 5 December 2002, and invites States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism to make use of the legislative guide in their efforts to incorporate the provisions of those instruments into their national legislation;

5. *Urges* Member States to continue working together, as well as on a regional and bilateral basis and in close cooperation with the United Nations, to prevent and combat acts of terrorism by strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance within the framework of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1377 (2001) and 1456 (2003) and other relevant international instruments and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law;

6. *Requests* the Centre, subject to the availability of regular or extrabudgetary resources, to prepare guidelines on technical assistance according to which the Centre, acting in areas within its competence and in coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, will provide assistance related to promoting the ratification of, accession to and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and to identify concrete elements of such assistance with a view to facilitating cooperation among Member States in combating terrorism, and to submit those guidelines to Member States for their consideration;

7. *Also requests* the Centre, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, to intensify its efforts to provide technical assistance, upon request, in preventing and combating terrorism through the implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, with particular emphasis on the need to coordinate its work with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to donor countries that have supported, through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund or through direct contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, the launching of the Global Programme against Terrorism, and invites all States to make adequate voluntary contributions to the Fund in order to strengthen the capacity of the Centre to provide technical assistance to requesting Member States, in particular for promoting the ratification of, accession to and implementation of the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism;

9. *Recommends* that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in coordination with other United Nations entities, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee, keep under regular review the progress made by Member States in becoming parties to and implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism and the needs of Member States requesting technical assistance;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize a senior-level discussion during the thirteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on progress made with regard to the criminal justice aspects of terrorism and international cooperation and to the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism, and invites the Counter-Terrorism Committee and relevant international organizations to participate in that discussion;

11. *Invites* Member States to provide the Secretary-General with information on the nature of links between terrorism and other forms of crime in order to increase synergies in the delivery of technical assistance by the Centre, and requests the Secretary-General to include an analysis of that information in his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

77th plenary meeting
22 December 2003